

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01650 022148Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-07 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8622

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, BC

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: A) STATE 211862; B) GABORONE 1626

1. ONLY EMBASSY-GOB DISCUSSION TO DATE ON PANMUNJOM INCIDENT WAS SHORT EXCHANGE DURING TOUR D'HORIZON AUGUST 25 WITH CHARLES TIBONE, SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (REF B). WHEN DISCUSSION TURNED TO FIRM GOB SUPPORT IN INTERNATIONAL FORA OF NORTH KOREAN POSITION, EMBOFF MENTIONED PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AS EVIDENCE OF NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES. TIBONE RESPONDED THAT NORTH KOREAN POSITION IS THAT U.S. AND ROK STARTED 1950. WAR. HE THOUGHT KOREANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ASSERT THAT US ALSO PROVOKED PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AND CONCLUDED THAT GOB HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO STARTED ANYTHING IN THAT REGION.

2. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS, ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THIS COUNTRY, HAS MADE NO MENTION OF THE INCIDENT. GOB RADIO NEWS FEATURED STRAIGHT REPORTING OF INCIDENT AND AFTERMATH BASED ON REUTERS.

3. COMMENT: EMBOFF RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT TIBONE, AND PROBABLY GOB BASICALLY UNINTERESTED IN PANMUNJOM INCIDENT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: blochd0
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